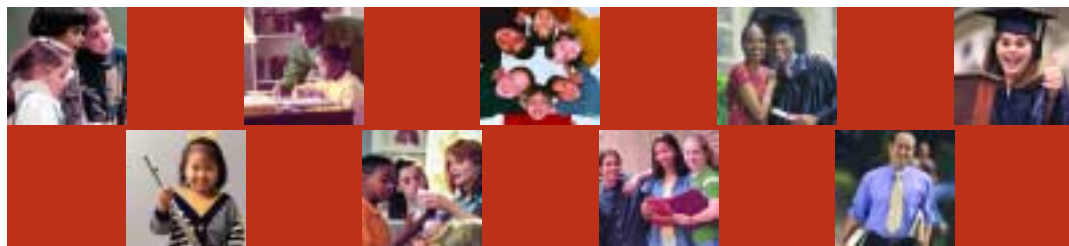


the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 18

Immediate Transition to College

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Transition to College

Immediate Transition to College

Since 1983, the gap between Blacks and Whites in their immediate college enrollment rate has been reduced, but during the 1980s and 1990s the gap between Hispanics and Whites has widened.

The percentage of high school completers who enroll in college in the fall immediately after high school reflects the accessibility of higher education and the value high school completers place on college compared with other pursuits. Overall, immediate college enrollment rates of high school completers increased from 49 to 62 percent between 1972 and 2001 (see supplemental table 18-1).

Immediate enrollment rates for White high school completers increased between 1972 and 2001, from 50 to 64 percent. Among Black high school completers, immediate enrollment rates remained fairly constant between 1972 and 1978, decreased between 1978 and 1983, and then increased between 1983 and 2001, from 38 to 55 percent. Since 1983, immediate enrollment rates for Blacks have increased faster than those for Whites, reducing the gap between the two groups. For Hispanic high school completers, immediate transition rates remained relatively constant between 1972 and 2001. Thus, while White rates rose during the 1980s and 1990s, stagnant Hispanic rates during this period resulted in the gap increasing between Hispanic and White rates.

From 1972 to 2001, immediate enrollment rates of female high school completers increased faster than those of male completers. Much of the growth in immediate college enrollment rates between 1984 and 2001 was due to increases in the rates of females at 4-year institutions. In this period, the rate at which females enrolled at 4-year institutions increased faster than that of males at 4-year institutions and both males and females at 2-year institutions (see supplemental table 18-2).

In each year between 1990 and 2001, there was a gap between students from high- and low-income families in their immediate enrollment rates. Likewise, completers whose parents had attained a bachelor's degree or higher were more likely than those with parents who had attained less education to enter college immediately after high school graduation for each year between 1990 and 2001. There was no evidence that these gaps by parental education narrowed over this time period (see supplemental tables 18-1 and 18-3).

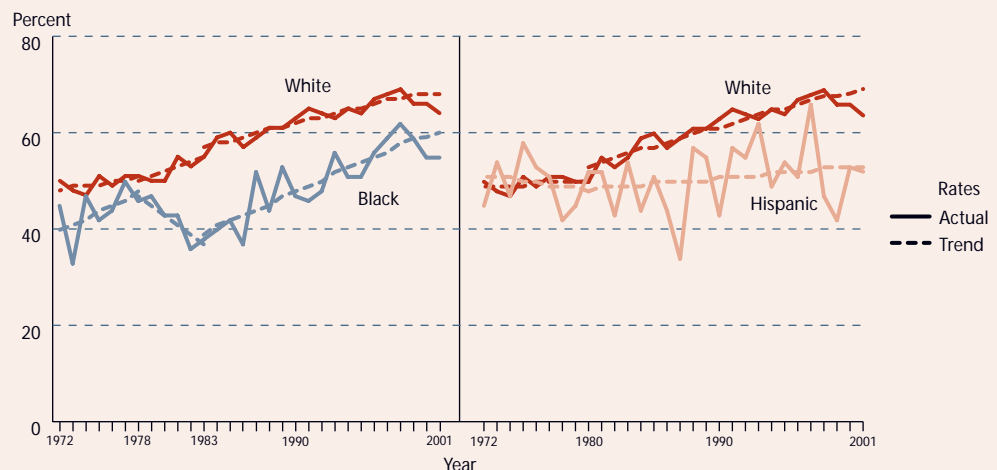
NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. Actual values are 1-year averages calculated from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The trend values show the linear trend of these average values over the time periods shown. In 1994, the survey instrument for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. The erratic nature of the Hispanic rate reflects, in part, the small sample size of Hispanics.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 2
Supplemental Tables 18-1,
18-2, 18-3

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES: Immediate enrollment in postsecondary education, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2001



Immediate Transition to College

Table 18-1. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school, by family income and race/ethnicity: October 1972–2001

October	Total	Family income ¹			Race/ethnicity ²				
		Low	Middle	High	White	Black	Hispanic		
		Annual	3-year average	Annual	Annual	Annual	3-year average	Annual	3-year average
1972	49.2	26.1	(³)	45.2	63.8	49.7	44.6	(³)	45.0
1973	46.6	20.3	(³)	40.9	64.4	47.8	32.5	41.4	54.1
1974	47.6	—	—	—	—	47.2	47.2	40.5	46.9
1975	50.7	31.2	(³)	46.2	64.5	51.1	41.7	44.5	58.0
1976	48.8	39.1	32.3	40.5	63.0	48.8	44.4	45.3	52.7
1977	50.6	27.7	32.4	44.2	66.3	50.8	49.5	46.8	50.8
1978	50.1	31.4	29.8	44.3	64.0	50.5	46.4	47.5	42.0
1979	49.3	30.5	31.6	43.2	63.2	49.9	46.7	45.2	45.0
1980	49.3	32.5	32.2	42.5	65.2	49.8	42.7	44.0	52.3
1981	53.9	33.6	32.9	49.2	67.6	54.9	42.7	40.3	52.1
1982	50.6	32.8	33.6	41.7	70.9	52.7	35.8	38.8	43.2
1983	52.7	34.6	34.0	45.2	70.3	55.0	38.2	38.0	54.2
1984	55.2	34.5	36.3	48.4	74.0	59.0	39.8	39.9	44.3
1985	57.7	40.2	35.9	50.6	74.6	60.1	42.2	39.5	51.0
1986	53.8	33.9	36.8	48.5	71.0	56.8	36.9	43.5	44.0
1987	56.8	36.9	37.6	50.0	73.8	58.6	52.2	44.2	33.5
1988	58.9	42.5	42.4	54.7	72.8	61.1	44.4	49.7	57.1
1989	59.6	48.1	45.6	55.4	70.7	60.7	53.4	48.0	55.1
1990	60.1	46.7	44.8	54.4	76.6	63.0	46.8	48.9	42.7
1991	62.5	39.5	42.2	58.4	78.2	65.4	46.4	47.2	57.2
1992	61.9	40.9	43.6	57.0	79.0	64.3	48.2	50.0	55.0
1993	61.5	50.4	44.0	56.9	79.3	62.9	55.6	51.3	62.2
1994	61.9	41.0	41.2	57.8	78.4	64.5	50.8	52.4	49.1
1995	61.9	34.2	41.5	56.1	83.4	64.3	51.2	52.9	53.7
1996	65.0	48.6	47.1	62.7	78.0	67.4	56.0	55.4	50.8
1997	67.0	57.0	50.6	60.8	82.2	68.2	58.5	58.8	65.6
1998	65.6	46.4	50.9	64.9	77.3	68.5	61.9	59.8	47.4
1999	62.9	49.4	48.5	59.5	76.0	66.3	58.9	58.6	42.3
2000	63.3	49.7	47.8	59.4	77.1	65.7	54.9	56.3	52.9
2001	61.7	43.8	(³)	56.5	79.8	64.2	54.6	(³)	51.7

—Not available. Data on family income were not available in 1974.

¹Low income is the bottom 20 percent of all family incomes, high income is the top 20 percent of all family incomes, and middle income is the 60 percent in between. See *supplemental note 1* for further discussion.

²Included in the total but not shown separately are high school completers from other racial/ethnic groups. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

³Due to small sample sizes for the low-income, Black, and Hispanic categories, 3-year averages also were calculated for each category. For example, the 3-year average for Blacks in 1973 is the average percentage of Black high school completers ages 16–24 who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school in 1972, 1973, and 1974. Thus, 3-year averages cannot be calculated for 1972 and 2001 and for groups of 3 years in which some data are not available (e.g., 1973–75 for the low-income category).

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.

Immediate Transition to College

Table 18-2. Percentage distribution of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school according to sex and type of institution: October 1972–2001

October	Male			Female		
	Total	2-year	4-year	Total	2-year	4-year
1972	52.7	—	—	46.0	—	—
1973	50.0	14.6	35.4	43.4	15.2	28.2
1974	49.4	16.6	32.8	45.9	13.9	32.0
1975	52.6	19.0	33.6	49.0	17.4	31.6
1976	47.2	14.5	32.7	50.3	16.6	33.8
1977	52.1	17.2	35.0	49.3	17.8	31.5
1978	51.1	15.6	35.5	49.3	18.3	31.0
1979	50.4	16.9	33.5	48.4	18.1	30.3
1980	46.7	17.1	29.7	51.8	21.6	30.2
1981	54.8	20.9	33.9	53.1	20.1	33.0
1982	49.1	17.5	31.6	52.0	20.6	31.4
1983	51.9	20.2	31.7	53.4	18.4	35.1
1984	56.0	17.7	38.4	54.5	21.0	33.5
1985	58.6	19.9	38.8	56.8	19.3	37.5
1986	55.8	21.3	34.5	51.9	17.3	34.6
1987	58.3	17.3	41.0	55.3	20.3	35.0
1988	57.1	21.3	35.8	60.7	22.4	38.3
1989	57.6	18.3	39.3	61.6	23.1	38.5
1990	58.0	19.6	38.4	62.2	20.6	41.6
1991	57.9	22.9	35.0	67.1	26.8	40.3
1992	60.0	22.1	37.8	63.8	23.9	40.0
1993	58.7	22.4	36.3	64.0	22.4	41.6
1994	60.6	23.0	37.5	63.2	19.1	44.1
1995	62.6	25.3	37.4	61.3	18.1	43.2
1996	60.1	21.5	38.5	69.7	24.6	45.1
1997	63.6	21.4	42.2	70.3	24.1	46.2
1998	62.4	24.4	38.0	69.1	24.3	44.8
1999	61.4	21.0	40.5	64.4	21.1	43.3
2000	59.9	23.1	36.8	66.2	20.0	46.2
2001	59.7	18.6	41.1	63.6	20.7	42.9

—Not available. Data for type of institution were not collected until 1973.

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.

Immediate Transition to College

Table 18-3. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school, by parents' highest level of education: October 1990–2001

Parents' education ¹	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total	60.1	62.5	61.9	61.5	61.9	61.9	65.0	67.0	65.6	62.9	63.3	61.7
Less than high school	33.9	42.6	33.1	47.1	43.0	27.3	45.0	51.4	49.8	36.3	44.4	39.0
High school diploma or equivalent	49.0	51.0	55.5	52.3	49.9	47.0	56.1	61.7	57.2	54.4	51.8	51.9
Some college, including vocational/technical	65.6	67.5	67.5	62.7	65.0	70.2	66.6	62.6	67.7	60.3	63.8	62.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	83.1	87.2	81.3	87.9	82.5	87.7	85.2	86.1	82.3	82.2	81.2	81.3
Not available ²	47.7	42.1	38.0	42.0	43.1	30.8	45.6	51.3	50.1	53.1	50.5	41.9

¹Parents' education is defined as either the highest educational attainment of the two parents who reside with the student, or if only one parent is in the residence, the highest educational attainment of that parent; when neither parent resides with the student, it is defined as the highest educational attainment of the head of the household.

²Parents' education is not available for those who do not live with their parents and who are classified as the head of the household (not including those who live in college dormitories) and for those whose parents' educational attainment was not reported. In 2001, approximately 11 percent of high school completers ages 16–24 were in this category.

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.

Immediate Transition to College

Table S18. Standard errors for the immediate enrollment in postsecondary education, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2001

	Actual rates of enrollment			
	White	Black	White	Hispanic
1972	1.4	4.6	1.4	9.7
1973	1.4	4.3	1.4	9.0
1974	1.4	4.6	1.4	8.9
1975	1.4	4.7	1.4	8.4
1976	1.4	4.8	1.4	8.0
1977	1.4	4.7	1.4	8.0
1978	1.4	4.5	1.4	8.4
1979	1.4	4.7	1.4	7.9
1980	1.4	4.4	1.4	8.7
1981	1.4	4.4	1.4	8.2
1982	1.5	4.3	1.5	8.0
1983	1.6	4.3	1.6	9.0
1984	1.5	4.1	1.5	7.7
1985	1.6	4.8	1.6	9.8
1986	1.6	4.4	1.6	8.9
1987	1.7	4.8	1.7	8.3
1988	1.8	4.9	1.8	10.1
1989	1.9	5.3	1.9	10.5
1990	1.8	5.1	1.8	10.8
1991	1.8	5.2	1.8	9.6
1992	1.8	4.9	1.8	8.5
1993	1.9	5.3	1.9	8.2
1994	1.6	4.4	1.6	6.3
1995	1.6	4.2	1.6	4.9
1996	1.7	4.0	1.7	5.8
1997	1.6	4.1	1.6	4.5
1998	1.6	4.0	1.6	4.9
1999	1.6	3.9	1.6	4.8
2000	1.7	4.1	1.7	5.0
2001	1.7	4.2	1.7	5.6

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.

Immediate Transition to College

Table S18-1. Standard errors for the percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school, by family income and race/ethnicity: October 1972–2001

October	Total	Family income			Race/ethnicity				
		Low	3-year average	Middle	High	White	Black	Hispanic 3-year average	Hispanic 3-year average
		Annual		Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual		
1972	1.31	3.45	†	1.75	2.19	1.42	4.62	†	9.74
1973	1.29	3.18	†	1.70	2.13	1.40	4.30	2.62	9.01
1974	1.28	—	—	—	—	1.39	4.58	2.63	8.94
1975	1.26	3.59	†	1.69	2.09	1.37	4.69	2.71	8.44
1976	1.31	4.20	2.17	1.76	2.06	1.43	4.82	2.72	7.97
1977	1.29	3.54	2.22	1.76	2.01	1.41	4.65	2.70	7.96
1978	1.28	3.74	2.13	1.74	2.05	1.41	4.51	2.67	8.44
1979	1.28	3.78	2.11	1.74	2.04	1.41	4.69	2.62	7.92
1980	1.30	3.47	2.14	1.78	2.08	1.43	4.44	2.61	8.70
1981	1.30	3.90	2.11	1.75	2.09	1.44	4.44	2.50	8.19
1982	1.36	3.81	2.29	1.81	2.13	1.52	4.33	2.57	7.96
1983	1.39	4.02	2.20	1.88	2.17	1.55	4.34	2.47	8.96
1984	1.37	3.62	2.26	1.89	2.09	1.54	4.15	2.54	7.67
1985	1.45	4.14	2.18	2.02	2.16	1.62	4.78	2.55	9.76
1986	1.43	3.59	2.23	1.97	2.28	1.62	4.38	2.71	8.85
1987	1.46	3.88	2.21	2.07	2.16	1.65	4.82	2.65	8.25
1988	1.57	4.39	2.54	2.14	2.52	1.79	4.91	2.98	10.14
1989	1.64	4.56	2.66	2.28	2.61	1.85	5.27	2.98	10.51
1990	1.60	4.76	2.63	2.14	2.54	1.80	5.08	2.97	10.82
1991	1.62	4.50	2.62	2.25	2.39	1.82	5.25	2.93	9.58
1992	1.58	4.37	2.60	2.18	2.35	1.84	4.92	2.98	8.50
1993	1.59	4.56	2.56	2.15	2.46	1.85	5.28	2.97	8.22
1994	1.43	4.01	2.28	1.93	2.19	1.61	4.42	2.52	6.28
1995	1.41	3.56	2.16	1.99	1.87	1.64	4.20	2.40	4.92
1996	1.42	3.78	2.18	1.95	2.27	1.67	4.03	2.41	5.79
1997	1.38	3.66	2.14	1.97	1.98	1.64	4.12	2.35	4.53
1998	1.38	3.62	2.11	1.89	2.22	1.61	4.05	2.31	4.92
1999	1.38	3.66	2.11	1.90	2.23	1.64	3.86	2.31	4.76
2000	1.41	3.67	2.14	1.97	2.22	1.66	4.11	2.34	5.03
2001	1.48	3.81	†	2.07	2.21	1.72	4.19	†	5.63

—Not available.

†Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.

Immediate Transition to College

Table S18-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school according to sex and type of institution: October 1972–2001

October	Male			Female		
	Total	2-year	4-year	Total	2-year	4-year
1972	1.89	—	—	1.81	—	—
1973	1.87	1.32	1.79	1.77	1.28	1.61
1974	1.85	1.37	1.74	1.77	1.23	1.66
1975	1.83	1.44	1.73	1.75	1.32	1.62
1976	1.87	1.32	1.76	1.82	1.35	1.72
1977	1.87	1.41	1.79	1.77	1.36	1.65
1978	1.87	1.36	1.79	1.76	1.36	1.63
1979	1.88	1.41	1.78	1.76	1.35	1.62
1980	1.86	1.40	1.70	1.81	1.49	1.66
1981	1.86	1.52	1.77	1.82	1.46	1.72
1982	1.95	1.48	1.81	1.90	1.54	1.76
1983	2.03	1.63	1.89	1.91	1.48	1.82
1984	1.99	1.53	1.95	1.90	1.55	1.80
1985	2.08	1.69	2.06	2.02	1.61	1.97
1986	2.06	1.70	1.97	1.99	1.50	1.89
1987	2.09	1.60	2.09	2.04	1.65	1.95
1988	2.24	1.85	2.17	2.20	1.88	2.19
1989	2.35	1.84	2.32	2.27	1.97	2.28
1990	2.29	1.85	2.26	2.24	1.87	2.28
1991	2.33	1.98	2.25	2.22	2.09	2.32
1992	2.24	1.89	2.21	2.23	1.98	2.27
1993	2.32	1.96	2.27	2.17	1.88	2.22
1994	2.05	1.76	2.03	1.99	1.63	2.05
1995	2.03	1.82	2.03	1.95	1.54	1.98
1996	2.09	1.76	2.08	1.92	1.80	2.07
1997	2.01	1.71	2.07	1.87	1.75	2.04
1998	1.96	1.74	1.96	1.93	1.79	2.08
1999	1.95	1.63	1.97	1.95	1.67	2.02
2000	2.13	1.83	2.10	1.88	1.59	1.98
2001	2.11	1.68	2.12	2.08	1.75	2.14

—Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.

Immediate Transition to College

Table S18-3. Standard errors for the percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school, by parents' highest level of education: October 1990–2001

Parents' education	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total	1.60	1.62	1.58	1.59	1.43	1.41	1.42	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.41	1.48
Less than high school	4.86	4.93	4.99	6.00	5.00	4.44	5.63	5.51	5.61	5.00	5.49	5.58
High school diploma or equivalent	2.84	2.95	2.97	2.90	2.96	2.95	2.84	2.97	2.83	3.00	2.98	3.17
Some college, including vocational/technical	3.37	3.30	3.03	3.28	2.77	2.46	2.73	2.74	2.56	2.67	2.76	2.75
Bachelor's degree or higher	2.36	2.18	2.44	2.09	2.06	1.79	2.01	1.86	2.12	1.99	2.06	2.18
Not available	5.75	5.73	5.36	5.00	4.22	4.20	4.42	3.95	4.17	4.11	4.28	4.59

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), October 1972–2001.